

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **September 8, 2004**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-22. Claims 1-2, 6, 11-12, 16, and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pashan et al. (USPN 5,278,969, hereinafter "Pashan"). Claims 3-5, 7-9, 10, 13-15, 17-19, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 22 were rejected as being anticipated by Pashan.


Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 22 to include allowable limitations from dependent claims 10 and 20. Dependent claims 10 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 22 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-9, which depend upon claim 1, and claims 12-19, which depend upon claim 11, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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